

Syllabus on-site training course

“Risk Management of Cultural Heritage”

20.3.-24.3.2023, Krems (Austria)

Introduction

Cultural and natural heritage alike are increasingly affected by so called natural events, which are often enhanced or induced by climate change. Already in the present, but especially in the future (Central) Europe and the Mediterranean Basin will experience an increase in extreme events, be they heavy rain, flash floods, floods, wind storms, heat waves, drought or wildfires (due to drought). Besides becoming more frequent, these events are also predicted to rise in duration.

Everyday deterioration processes and wear and tear will be enhanced by these events (always depending on the materials in question and in use with the individual heritage), but also the general security is known to suffer during in the immediate response to (natural) catastrophes, resulting in an additional threat to cultural heritage, like theft, vandalism or violence.

In order to make our cultural heritage fit for the future and to protect it from immediate threat derived by the above-mentioned circumstances, cultural heritage professionals responsible for archaeological sites, monuments, libraries, museums and archives need to be equipped with the necessary skills in risk management for cultural heritage.

Aim

The aim of the course is to equip the cultural heritage professionals of tomorrow with basic information on necessary skills to manage risks for tangible cultural heritage; risks deriving from natural or man-made disasters, the former especially related to climate change.

The course follows the cross-cutting topping cultural heritage protection and especially risk management for tangible cultural heritage with a comprehensive approach.

Target Groups

Target of the course are owners, managers and operators of tangible cultural heritage. No prior knowledge for participating in the programme is required, but since the participants come from the background of a museum, library, archive, gallery or other type of cultural heritage, they are able to bring their standard operational procedures and relevant topics into the training programme.

Participants should have a high proficiency in English (at least B2 in understanding), since the course is held entirely in English.

Course learning outcomes

The learning outcomes of the one-week training are oriented towards enhancing the knowledge of the participants on the following topics:

- Threats to movable and immovable cultural heritage
- Methods for vulnerability ranking
- Risk assessment
- Emergency planning
- Network development in cultural heritage protection
- Digital tools for risk management of cultural heritage

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The course features theoretical input and hands-on section, in which the participants get the possibility to delve deeper into the topics, under the supervision of experts.

Participants do not need any previous knowledge in the topic of cultural heritage, its protection or risk management. They profit from the interdisciplinary faculty, who are keenly committed to training the heritage risk managers of the future. The participants will profit from the interdisciplinary and holistic approach to the topic.

Assessment Strategy

Active participation in the training course, including input of own expertise in management of cultural heritage and risk as owners, managers and operators of tangible cultural heritage.

Language

The course is held in English.